

Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

March 8, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was conducted in a virtual setting with Zoom.

President Tonia Bickham opened with the ritualistic opening at 10:00 AM. The Sergeant At-Arm confirmed quorum was established at 10:13 AM.

A motion to adopt the agenda as listed was made by Soror Denise Pendleton and Soror Hollisia Allen seconded the motion. It was adopted.

Approval of February 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on February 6, 2025, for the TAC members to review. A motion to approve minutes made by Soror Orenthia Mason and Soror Denise Pendleton seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham discussed Sisterhood month and attending the luncheon scheduled for this afternoon. Today is Women's International Day. President Tonia Bickham reminded to please make sure to set your time for Spring Break. The remaining meeting will be held in-person and at the Delta Service Center.

- April 12, 2025, at the Delta Service Center
- May 3, 2025, at the Delta Service Center

National News

The National Convention will be held in Washington, D.C. from July 8-13, 2025. President Tonia Bickham shared the trip is costly, but she hopes TAC members will be able to attend (virtual or in person). The email has been sent out with information regarding signing up.

Delta Days at the National Capital virtual spots are still open until the 14th; however, the in person is closed.

Regional News

HBCU spotlight for Sorors is being requested. The video will ask the question, "Why did you attend a HBCU?" A quick recording and it needs to be under a minute. Once complete please email the video.

Soror Victoria Christopher Murray has a book called Harlem Rhapsody. The books hit the shelves on February 4, 2025. It is encouraged to purchase the book to propel her

sales and to also earn a chance for an in-personal visit with the author. The book is the story of Soror Jessie Redmon Fauset who ignited the Harlem Renaissance.

All the information recited today is the newsletter. President Tonia Bickham shared the newsletter will be slated to come out the very first of each month.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Johnita Ward thanked those who supported T.AP.S. at the Parry's pizza restaurant. Twenty percent of the sales will go to the foundation to support the program.

The Sisterhood luncheon is set for 12:30 PM at Twelve restaurant today.

A recap of activities to celebrate Sisterhood month was listed as:

Bless This House Campaign kickoff this month. Soror Shunetta Reed is away currently. We want an offering towards the house to be contributed through PayPal or check. The Delta Service Center needs some repairs. March 14, 2025, is listed as spending some time with your Tribe. (Lunch or Dinner date)

Worship at Jones Valley Church of Christ at 10:00 AM with Pastor Timmons on Sunday.

Monday, March 17, 2025, we will be reading to the students at the two locations: Glenwood Primary School 9am -11am and North Tyler Day Care 10 am -12 pm. It is encouraged to take pictures and to wear Delta attire.

March 18, 2025, we are asking to please support Black business and to share receipts for the Crimson and Cream goes Black for Green. Economic Development Chair, Soror Candace Condry-Porter will be creating a spreadsheet to log the spending.

Monday, March 10, 2025, is the National Day of Rest for Black Women. It is encouraged to rest/recharge on this day.

The Sisterhood calendar is out according to Vice President Johnita Ward.

Emergency Response Team

Soror Karla Thomas is the chair of ERT. Soror Thomas shared we are going to develop a calling tree to allow others to check in with Sorors. Having a tree allows the responsibility to be shared and not just on the shoulders of one person. Soror Karla Thomas shared the importance of assisting Delta Dears out of the Delta Service Center first in the event of an emergency. Two fire drills need to be completed at least twice a year. The April meeting will host a planned Fire Drill.

Chaplain's Corner

Soror Kathy Cannon shared she had been away and explained the reason for her absence. Soror Kathy Cannon shared her success regarding her certification also her obstacle when it came to the math portion of the testing. Soror Kathy Cannon spoke about the importance of staying connected to the one we love and sisterhood.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements:

- May 17, 2025, Save the Date listed for the walk at Rose Rudman Park
- MIT time for Texas College and Jarvis Christian University. The QR link is listed as a sign-up genius to help with meals for those participants. There are two different links.
- Tyler Metro Chamber of Commerce is having their Image Awards set for April 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The location is Rose Garden/Tyler, Texas. Sponsorships levels are the following: Platinum: \$3000.00; Gold: \$2000.00; Silver: \$1000.00; and a table is listed as \$500.00. Friends of the Metro may donate \$100.00 to \$400.00 to support. Tickets are 50.00 presale and can be obtained from their website.
- September 6, 2025, Alopecia Awareness Sneaker Gala is set to be at the Meeting Place from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. You may RSVP to attend and the number is: 903-504-1188.
- Black Business Expo is set for April 25, 2025, "Understand your Business" 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Tyler Rose Garden. The event is free to the public. You may go to the website.
- TISD Care Closet is up and running. The public can help by volunteering, setting up and sponsoring a school. (Each school will have a closet to support their students)
- Tyler Alumnae Chapter we are still collecting books for the community library. Members are asked to please bring them to the upcoming chapter meetings.

Budget and Finance

Soror Hollisia Allen is the financial secretary and shared the following for February 2025: February 2025 receipts totaled \$1824.03.

Soror Leora Coleman is the treasurer and presented an error that was made in reporting for the January 2025 report. The errors have been corrected.

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The December report needs to reflect: \$40,783.53.

January 2025 amount provided was incorrect but after finding where the error was made. Everything has been balanced out.

January 2025 amounts are the following:

Disbursements: \$6387.31

The beginning balance of \$40,783.53

Ending balance of \$37,874.33

February 2025 is the following:

Incoming: \$1824.03

Disbursements: \$3823.18

The beginning balance is listed as \$37,875.33.

Ending balance of \$35,875.18

Audit Report

Soror Sharmecia Jackson reviewed the Audit Report that came from quarters 3 and 4.

Soror Sharmecia Jackson shared we had a problem and the need to review quarters 3 and 4. This period is from July to September then October to December of 2024.

The information was put in this site where we normally input information in the Red Zone. However, the information was placed in a Red Zone that was used as test pilot. In February 2025 we were notified of the error and the urgency to correct the matter was given to Soror Sonya Taylor. Soror Sharmecia Jackson shared she was contacted and had to input the information for the quarters (3 and 4).

The six-page report was submitted. The reports support TAC complies 100 % to operate. Thanks were given to Soror Sonya Taylor, Soror Leora Coleman, Soror Denise Pendleton, Soror Valerie Palmer, and President Tonia Bickham for getting this completed. Soror Sonya Taylor also expressed her appreciation towards Soror Sharmecia Jackson for her help in getting this resolved.

D.E.A.R.S

Soror Denise Pendleton shared that some Tribes have not met, nor have they completed the member profiles. Soror Denise Pendleton stated that this needs to be completed and was to be submitted by January 2025. It is still time to set up events in the Tribes.

March 14, 2025, lunch or dinner. March 16, 2025, attending church together and March 28, 2025 for lunch/dinner.

Soror Denise Pendleton shared the evaluation that needs to be completed and how important the feedback is. Many Tribes have convened on multiple occasions. Photos and acknowledgements were given.

Tribe # 3 (two face to face meetings) Soror Pamela Erwin

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Tribe #4 (meetings in person and virtual)

Tribe# 6 (meetings with food and fellowship at the Holiday Inn) Soror Pauline Barnes

Tribe #7 with Soror Lynnette Montgomery

Tribe # 8 has met virtually.

Tribe #11 (in person meeting) Soror Lisa Walker

Soror Denise Pendleton gave the shoutout for those who have completed the membership profile. An additional was created, Tribe # 12 being announced today with the members listed.

Soror Denise Pendleton presented the TAC history regarding Arts and Letters. Past photos were presented and the discussion of how it originated by 1973 of Past President Soror Lillian Benbow. The reviews educated the TAC members of the many Arts and Letters events and programs from past years.

Soror Pamela Erwin took a moment to give recognition to Soror Jo Flournoy. Soror Jo Flournoy will be moving from the area (Spring, Texas), but her love is with TAC.

Economic Development

Soror Taylor Bell presented on behalf of Economic Development chair Soror Candace Porter-Condry. The Save the Date for Standing on Business 2.0 is set September 20, 2025, at the Career and Technology Center in Tyler, Texas. March 18, 2025, we are asking those to support a Black business and on March 29, 2025, to support a Soror owned business. (Tasks for Sisterhood Month)

This month's spotlight for Soror owned business are Opportunitee Prints and Compro Tax owned by Soror Candace Porter-Condry. QR code is listed to access the website.

The Standing on Business will take us all together to make the program a success. Recommendations are needed for those vendors, speakers, and judges. It will take all Sorors to work together for success.

Hospitality/Courtesy

Vice President Johnita Ward announced on behalf of the Committee Chair, Soror Ebony Hill. The following courtesies were extended. Soror Jo Flournoy sent out E-Cards for those celebrating birthdays. Soror Devon Thompson and Soror Traci Tuck regarding their recovery. Soror Shunetta Reed from the passing of her father.

Housing

Vice President Johnita Ward presented on behalf of Soror Shunetta Reed who is the Chair for Housing.

The Housing housekeeping rules were briefly reviewed. Sorors are asked to RSVP to utilize the house. There is a QR code that can be utilized to secure a time to utilize the house. Take trash out once finished, sweep, move furniture back to its original location and please do not leave any food.

International Awareness and Involvement

Soror Karla Thomas shared International Women's Day as March 8, 2025, and World Water Day March 22, 2025. Please look for an upcoming email for an announcement on why we celebrate World Water Day.

Jennifer Bailey of (Saleh) meeting was held on February 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Chicken Salad Chick. We have moved forward to partner with this organization in efforts regarding Human Trafficking.

May Week

Soror Collette Stec announced the Save the Date for May Week luncheon. May 4, 2025; on Sunday starting at 1:30 PM at the Holiday Inn South Broadway Tyler, Texas. It is encouraged to wear red with pearls. Tickets Sales start today at the cost of \$65.00 until March 31, 2025. After April 1st, the ticket sales are \$70.00. The cost for a table is \$500.00 for a setting of eight. Soror Crystal Gayden is the guest speaker for the event. She has spoken on various occasions with TAC.

Emails regarding accomplishments for Sorors (25th and 50th), education/certifications, their children (Legatees) and Sorors who are completing their collegiate platform and transitioning to Alumnae chapters.

Soror Collette Stec reminded them to please share with graduating seniors to complete the scholarship application. The closing for application is set for April 4, 2025. The young lady can access the application from our website and the QR code.

Soror Kathy Cannon oversees the Delta Choir and will be announcing time frames and rehearsals.

The next May Week meeting is set for Zoom on Thursday, March 20, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A question posed by Soror on the number of tickets to be purchased was requested. Soror Denise Pendleton shared we cannot request Sorors to purchase a certain number of tickets. Soror Collette Stec challenged Sorors to purchase as many tickets as possible, purchase a table and invite others to join. Soror Collette Stec

reminded us of all we will be voting for: Officer of the Year. Delta of the Year and the Committee of the Year during the April 2025 meeting.

Tickets can be purchased online, and Soror Leora Coleman will present the information.

Tickets prices can be accepted with Pay Pal and a form (Google) will be created to capture the purchaser's information. The Eventbrite method is extremely expensive.

This Google form will allow us to use PayPal but to have our information captured. It will also allow us to use the information/email to send or remind them of upcoming events for the future. This manner will allow us to have the list of those who are attending.

Also, you may want to write a check; it can be mailed to purchase the May Week tickets.

Soror Vera Moore made the motion to include the Google Form through PayPal for the different events. Soror Shequita Daniels seconded the motion. The item was voted and approved.

Policy and Procedures

Soror Erika Smiley announced regarding Policy and Procedures. The proposed amendments have been uploaded to the website to review. All the suggested amendments have been on the website since late January 2025. There are five to consider.

The items will be voted on at April's meeting.

- Delta Service Center guidelines will be attached to the chapter's policy and procedures. The Delta Service Center will no longer be referred to as, "The House." We will use the term Delta Service Center. This keeps it consistent.
- Term limits for the appointed officers. It states that you cannot service more than two consecutive terms.
- Hospitality/Courtesy will be added/guideline.
- Scholarship Application: The scholarship application will be added.

Soror Vera Moore was interested in whether the chairs were going to be present to discuss. Soror Vera Moore stated that the language of biological children needs to be eliminated, and it should be listed as sibling. This information will be shared with the chair for Hospitality/Courtesy (Soror Ebony Hill)

Soror Vivianne McGowan will send out the 10-day notice regarding the actions to vote in April 2025 chapter meeting.

Social Action

Monique Hawkins is the Chair and presented the Red-Letter campaign. The campaign is to bring attention/recognition to the School District in our service areas for TAC. The letter will be completed, and the request is for Sorors to sign. The goal is to have 100 percent chapter participation. This is the Blue Bonnet curriculum. TISD will not be sent letters. Technology will be assisting in getting the PDF emailed for Sorors to complete and sign.

The Red/White Days at the State Capital (Austin) is set for April 14, 2025. Soror Monique Hawkins shared she was not able to attend the Red/White Days and in her budget she has enough to send one person.

We are partnering with other D9 to help with the other initiatives.

Youth Initiatives/ Delta Gems and Academy

Vice President Johnita Ward presented on behalf of Soror Christiana Guthrie.

February 22, 2025, session introduced substance abuse/abuse prevention. Soror Shequita Daniels was able to be a guest speaker for the session. The next session is listed for March 22, 2025. Candice Ross (fitness guru) will be presenting. The attendance has been about twelve young ladies attending.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Shout Outs

Soror Jo Flournoy and her new move to Spring, Texas to be closer to her grandchildren.

Soror Jodi Ward announced that her daughter, Chaffani was newly elected to serve as the Crandall ISD school board member.

March Birthdays were recognized with a traditional Birthday Song.

The meeting concluded at 11:35 AM followed by the ritualistic closing.

Submitted by,

Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
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